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Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 51 (see A/63/416, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 27th and 31st meetings, on 18 November and 11 December 2008. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.27 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.31 and A/C.2/63/L.67

2. At the 27th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/63/L.31), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005 and 61/208 of 20 December 2006 on international migration and development, 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, 62/156 of

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbol A/63/416 and Add.1-4.

18 December 2007 on the protection of migrants and 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development,

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

"*Recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

"*Recalling also* Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,

"*Bearing in mind* the summary of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development by the President of the General Assembly,

"*Acknowledging* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

"*Acknowledging also* the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

"*Recognizing* that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital and that remittances have increased over time, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Invites* Member States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority;

"3. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin and destination;

"4. *Takes note* of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Brussels from 9 to 11 July 2007 and in Manila from 27 to 30 October 2008, as a State-led initiative;

"5. *Invites* the countries of origin and destination, in accordance with domestic legislation, to undertake appropriate measures to facilitate the contribution of migrants and migrant communities to the development of their countries of origin;

"6. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to continue considering the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of dealing with the challenges and opportunities that international migration presents;

"7. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries and, as appropriate, to encourage opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to undertake such action;

"8. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries;

"9. *Acknowledges* the need to analyse the impact of certain forms of temporary migration and return migration;

"10. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to incorporate a gender perspective in all policies and programmes on international migration in order to, inter alia, reinforce the positive contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen the protection of women migrants from all forms of violence, discrimination, trafficking, exploitation and abuse by promoting their rights and welfare, while recognizing in this regard the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels;

"11. *Requests* all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration;

"12. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration;

"13. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

"14. *Decides* to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will be held periodically, starting in 2010, as the appropriate follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in 2006;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the organizational aspects of the High-level Dialogue for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

"16. *Decides* that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

"17. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the sub-item entitled 'International migration and development';

"18. *Recognizes* that exchanges of information and expertise, consultation and closer cooperation between the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the United Nations could have a positive impact;

"19. *Invites* the regional commissions to organize panel discussions with the participation of high-level personalities from countries of origin, transit and destination to examine the issue of international migration and development, and to provide inputs to the report of the Secretary-General on this agenda item into the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

"20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/63/L.67), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Troy Torrington (Guyana), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.31.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.67 (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

5. Also at its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.67 (see para. 9).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Mexico (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Rio Group) (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

7. A statement was also made by the Vice-Chairman (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.31 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, 62/156 of 18 December 2007 on the protection of migrants, 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development and 61/208 of 20 December 2006 on international migration and development,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and taking note of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted on 2 December 2008,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[3] and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[4] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[5] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7]

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[8] and the invitation to Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

Recalling also the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, and the eight fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.
[2] A/CONF.212/L.1/Rev.1.
[3] Resolution 217 A (III).
[4] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[7] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[8] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

Recalling further Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,[9]

Bearing in mind the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,[10]

Acknowledging that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and heightened awareness on the issue,

Acknowledging also the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the chalienges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

Acknowledging further the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

Recognizing that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital and that remittances have increased over time, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration;

3. *Emphasizes* that respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants is essential for reaping the benefits of international migration;

4. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin and destination;

5. *Takes note* of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which held its first meeting in Brussels from 9 to 11 July 2007, and its second meeting in Manila from 27 to 30 October 2008, as an informal, voluntary, open, State-led initiative, and also takes note of the generous offer of the Government of Greece to host the third meeting of the Global Forum, to be held in Athens on 4 and 5 November 2009, as well as the offers of other Governments to hold subsequent meetings of the Forum;

6. *Invites* the countries of origin and destination, in accordance with domestic legislation, to undertake appropriate measures to facilitate the contribution of migrants and migrant communities to the development of their countries of origin;

7. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to continue considering the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to

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[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5* (E/2006/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[10] A/61/515.

[11] A/63/265 and Corr.1.

identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts;

8. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries and, as appropriate, to encourage opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to undertake such action, bearing in mind that remittances cannot be considered a substitute for foreign direct investment, official development assistance, debt relief or other public sources of finance development;

9. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries;

10. *Acknowledges* the need to analyse the impact of certain forms of temporary migration, circular migration and return migration on the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as on migrants themselves;

11. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to incorporate a gender perspective in all policies and programmes on international migration in order to, inter alia, reinforce the positive contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen the protection of women migrants from all forms of violence, discrimination, trafficking, exploitation and abuse by promoting their rights and welfare, while recognizing in this regard the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels;

12. *Requests* all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration;

13. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including the Global Migration Group, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way, within the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and with respect for human rights;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to support developing countries in their efforts to address migration issues within their respective development strategies in the context of the

implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16. *Decides* to hold, within existing resources, a high-level dialogue on international migration and development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013, the focus and modalities of which will be decided upon at its sixty-seventh session;

17. *Also decides* to convene, within existing resources, at its sixty-fifth session, in 2011, a one-day informal thematic debate on international migration and development;

18. *Further decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development";

19. *Invites* the regional commissions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs, in accordance with respective mandates and within existing resources, to a report of the Secretary-General on this item;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit that report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.